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IN THE CLAIMS:

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for physical detection and tracking of devices on a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

a processor, for executing executable data structures; and

a memory device operably connected to the processor for storing the executable data structures and associated operational data structures, the executable and operational data structures comprising:

a reporting module configured to query a network infrastructure device selected from the group consisting of a switch, router, and hub and obtain end point connection information corresponding to a first network device, the network infrastructure device storing and automatically updating a connection table mapping ports thereof to node identifications, the end point connection information comprising information from the connection table ~~information~~ identifying a port through which the first network device connects to the network infrastructure device; and

a correlation module configured to associate the end point connection information corresponding to the first network device to a location identifier corresponding to a physical location.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises a communication module configured to transmit the end point connection information to a central database.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an update module configured to detect a change of end point connection information corresponding to the first network device.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect a second network device local to the first network device; and obtain end point connection information corresponding to the second network device.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a monitoring module configured to receive end point connection information from the reporting module.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the correlation module further comprises a device recognition module configured to identify the nomenclature of the first network device based on product recognition records.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network device.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to a second network device.

10-27. (canceled)

28. (new) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium storing data structures for programming a computer, the data structures comprising:

a reporting module configured to query a device, storing and automatically updating a connection table mapping each port of the device to each node connected to the device, to retrieve from the connection table a port identification corresponding to a particular node, the device being selected from the group consisting of a switch, router, and hub; and

a correlation module configured to receive the port identification and identify an area within a building in which an electronic device corresponding to the particular node is located.

29. (new) The article of claim 28, wherein the reporting module is further configured to query one of the switch, router, and hub using Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).

30. (new) A method for physical detection and tracking of devices on a computer network, the method comprising:

identifying a functioning computer network housed within a building and comprising a plurality of devices, a first device of the plurality of devices being one of a switch, router, and hub, the first device storing and automatically updating a connection table mapping each port thereof to each node connected thereto;

installing and running, after the identifying, reporting software on a second device of the plurality of devices;

installing and running, after the identifying, correlating software on a third device of the plurality of devices, the correlating software comprising a binding table mapping ports of the first device to areas within the building corresponding thereto;

directing, by the reporting software, the second device to query the first device and obtain from the connection table a port identification corresponding to the second device;

directing, by the reporting software, the second device to report the port identification to the third device; and

directing, by the correlating software, the third device to determine the location of the second device by locating the port identification within the binding table and retrieving information designating an area within the building mapped thereto.

31. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the query comprises use of Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).